

Rafayel



# Siren's Song

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE +

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

Maverick finally arrives at the beach. The Siren who deceived him sits on the rocks. She turns around, smiling amidst the fragmented waves.

His bloodline that spanned 100 years has met its end, its family crest stained with the blood of loved ones. The Siren is responsible. He cherished her, yet she dug out their hearts with her own hands.

He wades through the shallow water and climbs onto the rocks. His hands are marred with scars.

These bloody hands had once cradled the

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

girl's face, gently caressing her exquisitely sculpted features.

But her love is a web meticulously woven with lies.

The seawater wets Maverick's clothes as he slowly opens his mouth, singing a melodious love song to his former lover. It is the song she once taught him, a siren's ballad.

His voice fluctuates from deep below the waves to soaring high above the skies, from sunset to moonrise, from high tide to low tide.

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

He sings with such passion that even the Siren is captivated by his enchanting voice. Step by step, he approaches her, caressing the bloodstains on her face that have yet to be washed away. He embraces her, whispering tenderly in her ear as he reveals the hidden dagger concealed in his sleeve. He plunges it into her heart when the song reaches its climax.

Crimson curtains descend like a cascade of blood, the lingering echoes of the ballad resonating within the vast opera house. Onstage, the man portraying Maverick

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

gracefully bows, his dim eyes hidden behind a mask.

Only then does the audience awaken from the enchanting melody, erupting into thunderous applause.

"He will surely be the rising star of the opera world, a prodigy..."

"I've already come up with the headline! Let's call it Resurgence of the Siren's Voice: Royal Opera House 10th Anniversary Performance!"

Just as everyone showers him with endless praise, a piercing scream seems to shatter

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

the glass dome of the building, like claws tearing through a magnificent robe.

"Mr. Fallon... is... He's dead!"

Behind the curtain, Rafayel leans against the backstage door, shutting out the cacophony.

He closes his eyes and takes a few deep breaths. Finally, he can be himself.

A searing pain throbs in his throat, pulsating in tandem with his heartbeat, rapidly stimulating his nerves.

As he touches his Adam's apple, he pulls

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE · AND · DEEPSPACE + +

out a new tie from his leather briefcase, the smooth satin entwined between his fingers. The cool texture gradually envelops his neck. It's like sheathing a blade.

The stage is adorned with a velvet carpet symbolizing the sea. His leather shoes step upon it, absorbing all the background noise.

This performance is far from over.

"Attention, please! Nonessential personnel, please evacuate immediately!"

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE · AND · DEEPSPACE + +

As a renowned private detective from a prominent, family-owned local business, Louis also received an invitation to tonight's performance and is now pushing against the frantic crowd.

He manages to calm himself and sneaks through the stage entrance. He hides beside the stage lights behind the curtain, observing the situation.

In the center of the VIP box, the deceased is now surrounded by barricade tape, still maintaining the seated position from when he watched the show. With his smile, he

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## 01 | Cliffhanger

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

looks like the sculpture of a murder victim.  
Louis senses something breeze by him.  
Someone is walking on the stage, behind  
the curtain.  
He pulls back the curtain, but he only  
catches a glimpse of a person lowering the  
brim of their hat, disappearing through  
the exit.

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## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

In the heart of Verona, Rafayel pushes open the café door. Before the tinkling of the wind chimes fades, he heads straight to an empty table and takes a seat.

A few high school girls dressed in uniforms sit by the window. You can always get the hottest gossip from girls around that age.


"Have you heard about what happened when they performed *Siren's Voice*?"

"A person enchanted by the siren's ballad will ultimately die with a smile..."

"Mr. Fallon had no external injuries or signs of poisoning. The police haven't

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## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

found any clues."

"Maybe that opera singer really is the God of the Sea. He took his revenge."

"I heard his name is Mo..."

Rafayel swipes through the news on his phone. It overflows with reports about the performance and Mr. Fallon's unexpected death.

As if not finding the news he wanted to see, he returns to the home screen.

Rafayel sips his Americano. By the time the cup is half-empty, he hears high heels clack against the floor accompanied by the

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## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

wind chimes. He doesn't look up. "You're late. Again."

Talia takes off her scarf and sits across from him. "Be nice to your aunt. I rushed over as soon as the performance ended."

"Do I have to buy you a drink?"

Talia nods, as though it's a given. "One velvet latte. Thanks." Seeing Rafayel remain unmoving, she taps the newspaper on the table a few times. "I'm not a cheap voice teacher, you know."

Rafayel turns around and orders the latte. He's about to hand it to Talia when his

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## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

hand pauses. "The stuff. Did you bring it?"

"It's in my bag."

She tries to take the drink, but Rafayel pulls it back. With no other choice, Talia takes out a stack of documents from her bag and pushes them to the center of the table. Only then does Rafayel put down the latte. He starts flipping through the pages. "Well, aren't you grumpy..." Talia drinks the latte and watches Rafayel attentively read the documents. And after hesitating for a moment, wanting to fill the silence, she says, "I watched your performance that

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*Sky*

## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

day too."

Rafayel still doesn't look up. "Yeah."

"Have you gotten used to Verona yet?"

"It doesn't matter. I'm just here for now."

His expression remains unfazed, but Talia notices him jotting down names with an intensity that makes his pen nearly pierce the paper.

She wants to say more, yet struggles to find the right words.

After that incident in Lemuria, Rafayel changed. Talia felt she could no longer recognize him. If the Rafayel of the past

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*Sky*

## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

was a blazing flame, then the Rafayel now resembled a reef battered by relentless waves—outwardly cold and hard, yet riddled with cracks, vulnerable to crumbling from the next wave.

Lost in thought, Talia realizes Rafayel has already stowed the documents away. He's putting on his suit jacket and getting ready to leave.

She quickly grabs his wrist.

Rafayel turns around. "You got other leads?"

"No," Talia says, shaking her head. "There's

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## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

an international art exhibition in Verona next week."

Rafayel is silent.

She continues, "I remember you used to like painting. I thought you might be interested."

Rafayel remains quiet for a long time.

Uncomfortable, Talia feels a stifling anxiety. "I know you'll handle everything, I just hope you—"

"K is dead. We held the Seamoons Ceremony for him last Saturday." Rafayel gazes out the window, looking at

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*Sky*

## 02 | Stage Manager

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

something in the distance.

Talia springs to her feet. "What?"

"Not every Lemurian survivor can wait." He turns his face away, his eyes glimmering. Perhaps he's shedding tears, but Talia isn't sure.

It would be the only info he exchanged for the day, and now, it's Talia's turn to fall silent.

What exactly is "right"? She doesn't know anymore.

They only have each other as family now, yet at this moment, all she can do is watch

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*Skyway*

## 02 | Stage Manager

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through the window as Rafayel leaves.  
Alone.

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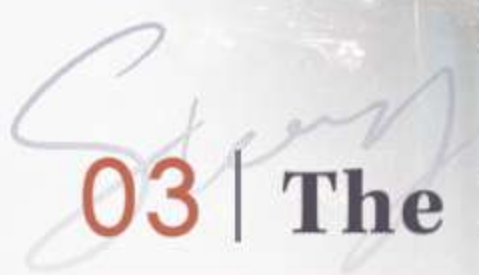
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## 03 | The Fourth Wall

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

People look out the café's window to see the street while Louis looks into the café from the outside.

Under pressure from the public, the police hurriedly closed the case. They ruled illness as the cause of death, but Mr. Fallon's family paid Louis several times the usual fee to continue the investigation. Louis recognizes the woman inside the café. With her hair adorned with a gilded hairpin, she's Talia, a renowned soprano. He had previously been commissioned to

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*Sydney*

## 03 | The Fourth Wall

+ LOVE · AND · DEEPSPACE + +

investigate her. Despite being a celebrity, there's not much information about her personal life. She has no known relatives or lovers either.

What a surprising turn of events.

Mr. Mo seems more intriguing than he had initially thought. Louis begins to look forward to a confrontation with him, and not just for the fee. As a detective, encountering a worthy adversary is always the most exhilarating part of the job. A mix of curiosity and admiration often transcends duty.

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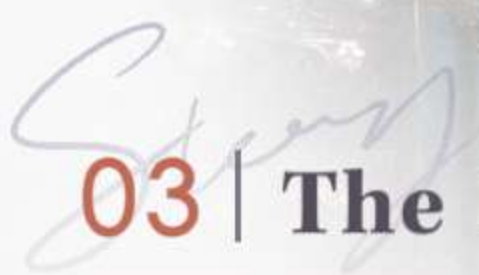
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## 03 | The Fourth Wall

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

As he muses, the man leaves the café, his demeanor as nonchalant as ever.

Louis's feet act faster than his mind. He hurries after him, his hand instinctively reaching for his camera. He forgets for a moment that, as a private detective, remaining unseen is paramount.

But as the man heads into an alley, he vanishes into darkness.

This is the second time Louis has missed him. Frustrated, he stops in his tracks.

Suddenly, flames ignite from the end of the alley.

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*Sydney*

# 03 | The Fourth Wall

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

"Speak. Why are you following me?"

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

This might be the day Louis is closest to the truth.

At a fancy restaurant, Louis takes a seat directly across from Rafayel.

"If you answer a few questions, I promise I'll stop following you. How does that sound?"

Rafayel doesn't respond, which Louis interprets as consent.

"Do you like myths, Mr. Rafayel? My favorite is *The Killer Song*."

How absurd. Realizing there's no juicy

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

gossip, the mother and daughter at the next table over refocus their attention on the corn chowder in front of them.

"But I've heard it was altered over time."

Louis murmurs, "You must be familiar with the original story. Am I correct, Mr.

Rafayel?"

Rafayel eats slowly, a knife in one hand and a fork in the other. He cuts the meat on his plate with the elegance of the upper class. "I have no interest in writing fairy tales."

"That's fine," Louis says with a smile. "Let

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

me tell you a version I'm quite fond of."

Legends say the Siren was not a graceful woman but a charming, handsome merman. Contrary to the stories in operas, he met a woman on the beach, but she took his tail and cut off his scales. At death's door, the Siren sang a mournful elegy. Ultimately, the woman on the shore passed away with a smile as he sang.

Rafayel takes a spoonful of soup. "Cool."  
It's all he has to say after hearing the

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

story. Naturally, Louis isn't content to leave it at that.

"I think this version is too plain, so I took the liberty of rewriting it."

People lured by the siren's ballad don't die peacefully. Their smiles are just a mask bestowed by the Siren. Instead, as they near death, they witness bizarre visions as they're plunged into endless torment. A blue pattern, representing the Siren, appears on their chests. It's a constant reminder of the sins they committed

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

against the sea.

"What do you think?"

"Very creative." Rafayel remains unimpressed.

"Thank you," Louis says. "But Mr. Rafayel, do you really think the story is done? I added a bit..."

The Siren returns to the sea, believing everything has ended. But he discovers his underwater kingdom has turned into ruins soaked in blood. His people have either

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

vanished, turned into bloody foam, or were kidnapped. His homeland has turned into a silent, deserted city overnight. Oh, and as for the name of this underwater kingdom—  
Lemuria.

Louis enthusiastically narrates his "addendum" of the story. At that moment, the chef serves them their meticulously plated final dish.  
A fish lying amidst white rosemary.  
Rafayel still doesn't speak, chewing slowly.

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE · AND · DEEPSPACE + +

He stops for a long while, seemingly savoring the flavor.

"What is it, Mr. Rafayel?"

"There's bone."

Louis pulls out an old document and pushes it toward Rafayel. It reads, "In 2034, an underwater city was unearthed in the ocean southeast of Linkon City. It was confirmed to be the ruins of Lemuria, confirming Lemuria's existence."

"My story isn't just pure imagination. Any thoughts, Mr. Rafayel?"

"Maybe you shouldn't be a private

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

detective." Rafayel pushes the document back. His aloof facade seems impenetrable. But Louis, still determined, tries one last time.

"There is a part I still haven't figured out."

"Which is?"

When the Siren returns to the beach...

How does he exact his revenge on those responsible for Lemuria's destruction?

Louis pulls out a hefty personnel file and places it on the table, all while observing

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## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

Rafayel's expression.

This time, Rafayel doesn't feign disinterest. He starts flipping through it. "I think he'd first learn from them."

"Really?" Louis is taken aback.

He fails to find any mistakes in this man.

Other than Rafayel's smile, nothing seems to be amiss. Despite that, he's even more perplexed by Rafayel's response.

"He's gotta study their wits and cruelty, you know."

Rafayel stands up and departs, leaving only that statement behind.

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# *Symphony*

## 04 | Improv

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

This is the third time. Louis feels he's gotten a hold of something, yet still finds himself empty-handed.

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Serenity

## 05 | A One-Man Show

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

The young boy sits alone in the middle of the coral reef, softly humming "Siren's Ballad."

Waves lap the shore, staining it dark red.

The color blends almost seamlessly with the bloody setting sun in the distance.

Those who deceived him have long since sailed away on their massive ships, laughing all the while.

"Siren's Ballad" isn't a song of revenge. It's an elegy sung for Lemuria.

Rafayel shakes the droplets of water from

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## 05 | A One-Man Show

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

his hair.

He feels like he's still underwater. The dying cries of his people echo in his ears, fizzing and crackling like a broken record that's being ground into pieces.

Something in his chest howls, urging him to open his eyes and avenge them.

Rafayel wants to stand up.

Yet at the same time, his body is ensnared by the dark undertow. In darkness, the shadows of those he personally laid to rest emerge and drag him down, lower and lower into the depths.

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## 05 | A One-Man Show

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

The bathtub's water is heavy. Really.  
Heavy.

Torn between various forces, it's as if he's  
being split in two.

...

"Don't be scared."

Amidst the chaos, Rafayel hears his  
mother's voice.

He remembers last Saturday.

He pushed K's wheelchair out of the  
hospital room, all the way to the beach.

"Hang in there. I'll bring everyone home."

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## 05 | A One-Man Show

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

But K shook his head, looking at the sea. "I can't stand it anymore. They took away my scales and drew my blood. Over and over again. I'm no longer Lemurian."

The doctor told him in private that K was on his last legs. He wasn't sure what had kept him through such agony until now. The boundless land and sky had once been the dream of many Lemurians, yet they couldn't have imagined it turning into a neverending nightmare.

The remaining Lemurians also appeared. They promised K they'd perform the

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## 05 | A One-Man Show

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

Seamoon Ceremony, but Rafayel still found it hard to let go.

When the moon reached its highest point in the sky, they pushed K's body into the depths of the sea, watching him slowly become one with the water.

In the crowd, K looked at Rafayel and smiled.

Rafayel read his lips.

"Don't be scared," he had said.

Rafayel remembers a time from many, many years ago. Though it's a faded memory now, he hid behind his mother

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*Seamoon*

## 05 | A One-Man Show

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

during a Seamoon Ceremony.  
His mother gently pulled him to her side,  
allowing him to witness the ritual.  
"Don't be scared..." she softly murmured.

The world gradually becomes clear before  
Rafayel.  
He takes several deep breaths, then wraps  
himself in a bathrobe. Barefoot, he steps  
onto the carpet and reviews the  
documents Talia had given him.

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## 06 | Next Performance

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +


By the time a reluctant Louis reaches the pier, Rafayel has already boarded a ship set to depart from Verona.

It's perfect weather for sailing—clear, bright. The port radio station continues its 24-hour broadcast of citizens calling in.

"This is the 176th call about the special anniversary performance. Even though it ended several days ago, countless audience members who experienced it in person still praise it as groundbreaking. It's an unforgettable memory. Even I, Joanna, regret not having gone to see it!

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## 06 | Next Performance

+ LOVE · AND · DEEPSPACE + +

Now, let's take the next call."

After the call connects, the voice on the other end is sharp. "Oh, that opera singer Mo! He's a real siren! His singing can seduce and kill! I'll follow him forever—"

The call abruptly cuts off. It sounds like an obsessed fan has lost their mind and is now descending into madness.

The ship sails for many days on the vast blue ocean. Finally, a silvery-white horizon appears.

Rafayel stands on the deck, a suitcase with

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HOW DO "DEEPSPACE" AND "LOVE AND DEEPSPACE" DIFFER?

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## 06 | Next Performance

+ LOVE · AND · DEEPSPACE + +

exquisite gold clasps at his feet. It draws frequent glances from other passengers. "Dear passengers, our destination, Linkon City, is just ahead..."

He takes out a stack of documents and sets them on fire. The ashes are instantly taken away by the sea breeze. Then, he takes out a business card from his card holder and flips it between his fingers.

Who knew the private detective's leads were, in some aspects, more comprehensive than his own?

"All right, I'm getting off the ship now," he

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HOW DO "DEEPSPACE" AND "LOVE AND DEEPSPACE" DIFFER?

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*Seagull*

## 06 | Next Performance

+ LOVE AND DEEPSPACE + +

says. The seagull that had followed him all the way reluctantly leaves his shoulder. Approaching the beach, a sea breeze stirs. A photo from Rafayel's breast pocket is blown away. But before it can go too far, a seagull snatches it with its beak and returns it to him.

Rafayel gazes at the girl in the photo, a smile gracing his lips. He pets the seagull. "I'll give you some tasty snacks next time."

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